

# Maryland Historical Trust/ National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

WA-HAG-155  
MHT Inventory No.

MHT Computer No.

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. For instructions, see the Trust publication National Register Application Guidelines. Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Fox-Deceived Farm  
other names Old Stonebraker Farm

## 2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of Edgewood Dr. and Dual Highway (Rt. 40) ☐ not for publication  
city, town Hagerstown ☐ vicinity  
state Maryland code \_\_\_\_\_ county Washington code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 21740

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: ☐

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. OWNERSHIP

Mr. Larry Rachuba  
The DeChiaro-Rachuba Group  
700 Fairmount Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204

☐ See Continuation Sheet

## 5. RESERVED (leave this space blank)

submit completed applications to:

National Register Administrator  
Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**6. Function or Use**

MHT Inventory No.:

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Georgian-Federal influence

foundation STONE/limestone

walls STONE/limestone

roof ASPHALT/shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

This property consists of the primary dwelling and bank barn of a c. 1793 plantation. The dwelling is of vernacular design that incorporates Georgian and Federal influence. The limestone house has a symmetrical 5-bay front facade with central entryway. The stone bank barn stands approximately 100 feet in front (south) of the dwelling and dates from 1825. Both dwelling and barn have several later wood and/or concrete block additions, none of which impair the architectural integrity of the buildings.

Extended Description

The farmhouse faces south and is constructed entirely of fieldstone, evenly coursed on the front facade and less so on the sides and rear of the dwelling. The five bay symmetrical front facade has a central door with two evenly spaced windows on either side. Front second story windows (5) are evenly placed and have louvered shutters. All windows display old shutter hardware. A projecting wood construction porch with low-pitched modified hipped roof extends approximately 6 to 7 feet from the front facade and is supported by 6, 6-inch square posts. The porch is not original to the structure. The gabled house roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Both east and west side facades reveal symmetrical fenestration with two windows on both the first and second stories and two smaller square windows penetrating the gabled area. All dwelling window frames are of mortice and tennon construction with two-over-two light sashes replacing the original sashes. One window in the east rear corner of the house features original nine-over-six lights. Each window opening is constructed with a jack arch. Dual, interior-placed chimneys are noted at opposite sides of the house with date tablet insets located approximately 3 feet below the gable peak. Both tablets appear to be missing although more recent painted lettering is observed on the east facing inset. The west facing facade extends beyond the primary rear wall to create a fieldstone extension of the first story with a wood construction second story.

The front door framing of the dwelling has clearly defined mortice and tennon construction with a rectangular transom pierced by 5 rectangular lights. The exterior appearance retains its historic integrity in spite of small wooden additions and signage supports that were added in recent times.

☐ See continuation sheet

For GENERAL DESCRIPTION, see continuation sheets.

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**Statement of Significance**

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the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ national☐ statewide☒ localApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Significant Person

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

This late 18th century stone dwelling and bank barn represent a tangible link to the early history of Washington County. Built by a wealthy and prominent landowner of the time, the farmhouse reflects both the architectural trends and the prevailing economic order of late 18th century rural western Maryland. The overall design and finishing features convey the sense of vernacular architectural transition from Georgian to Federal period while the choice of building material and scale suggest the relative social stratification and cultural background of its builder/owner. Although some deterioration has occurred over the years, both farmhouse and barn retain the original architectural integrity.

☐ See continuation sheet

For HISTORIC CONTENT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PLAN data, see continuation sheet.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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1. Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland. (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882,, p. 974.
2. U.S. Direct Tax for 1798 available for Franklin County, Pennsylvania immediately north of Washington County, Md., lists all houses standing in that year, building material, dimensions and value.
3. Interview with: William C. Bierley, life long resident and Historian of Town of Funkstown until 1970.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register☐ designated a National Historic Landmark☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings

Survey #

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

☐ State historic preservation office☐ Other State agency☐ Federal agency☐ Local government☐ University☐ Other


**Specify repository:**

## 10. Geographical Data


creage of property

USGS quad

## UTM References

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☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

☐ See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

☐ See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

e/title Karl R. Sanford, Chairman, Preservation Design District Commission

Organization City of Hagerstown

street & number 1 East Franklin Street

city or town Hagerstown,

date 4/5/89

telephone 790-3200 Ext. 140

state Maryland zip code 21740

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

**Geographic Organization:**

Western Maryland

**Chronological/Developmental Period:**

Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815 A.D.

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:**

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning  
Agriculture

**Resource Type:**

Category: Building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Functions: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Homestead

Known Design Source: unknown

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Historic Setting

The period during which this property was developed (1760-1810) was marked by the expansion and further refinement of the agrarian society of 18th century Western Maryland. Central and western Maryland was a very prosperous region and economically based on diversified farming, particularly the growing of small grains. Washington County was known to be one of the highest wheat producing counties in the State of Maryland<sup>1</sup>. It was within this context that large land grants were made to many people by the Lord Baltimore. The Fox-Deceived plantation was one of such grants. Much of Washington County, Maryland lies within the great limestone valley known in Pennsylvania and Maryland as the Cumberland Valley. During the period of 1760 - 1840, prosperous farmers chose the local limestone for building material. Records show that limestone houses of the eighteenth century had a higher value than their wooden counterparts, and that brick construction for farmhouses prior to 1800 was extremely rare.<sup>2</sup> Limestone construction was thus associated with prosperity in this area of western Maryland in the late 18th century.

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The arrival of German immigrants into the western Maryland region created a distinct cultural region that was often reflected in their architecture. Elizabethtown, later to become Hagerstown in 1813, was established during this period as an agricultural and regional trading center.

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Resource History

The builder/owner of the Fox-Deceived property, Col. Conrad Hogmire, is known to have emigrated from Germany in 1741 at age 16. He settled in the portion of Frederick County which was to become Washington County. He was a surveyor and was the recipient of many land grants. On October 1, 1776 when Washington County was carved from the existing Frederick County, Col. Hogmire was appointed as one of the first five Washington County Commissioners. He was a local leader in pre-revolutionary and early revolutionary war activities, having membership on the Committee for the Relief of the Suffering Brethern in Boston, the Committee of Observation and the Committee of Safety. Col. Hogmire took the Oath of Allegiance (Patriot's Oath) before the March 1778 Court of Washington County, as 65th on the list of 163 administered by Judge John Stull.

According to records at the Washington County Historical Society library, the well-established Col. Hogmire built the limestone farmhouse in 1793 on land known as the Fox-Deceived property. The vernacular dwelling was conservatively adapted and represents a very typical regional farmhouse as it embodies an essentially Georgian design with characteristics of Federal influence. On April 4, 1796, the property, consisting of 117 acres, was sold to Henry Schroeder by Col. Hogmire's eldest son, Samuel. A year later, in October, 1797, Col. Hogmire died at the age of 72. Henry Schroeder held the property until its sale to Gerrard Stonebraker on June 4, 1808. The Stonebraker family or their direct

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decendants continued to hold title to the farm until 1937 when Clara Stonebraker Howell died. The property was sold at public auction in 1944, to Mrs. Henrietta M. Smith, wife of R. Paul Smith, President of Potomac-Edison. The farmhouse was subsequently rented as apartments, an antique shop and, most recently, as a storage area for a fruit and vegetable stand.

In the mid-1960's, the heirs of R. Paul Smith completed transactions with the City of Hagerstown to extend the city limits to encompass the Fox-Deceived Farm property. Over the years frame extensions were added to the house but did not alter the basic structural integrity of the building.

Little is known of the history of the adjacent limestone and frame barn. An inscription tablet on the west facing side of the barn reads "GS 1825" (Gerrard Stonebraker 1780 - 1855). By the 1920's when the farm was operated as a dairy, the barn is known to have housed only farm machinery with the dairy located across the road.

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Resource Analysis:

This resource represents the comprehensive plan historic themes of both architecture and agriculture during the period of rural agrarian intensification. It is representative of the outgrowths of land grants, agricultural diversification, increased trade and immigrant cultural infusion in the western frontier of Maryland.

The surviving 1793 dwelling and bank barn of this rural Western Maryland homestead reflects the cultural and economic underpinnings of western Maryland life in the late 18th century. It typifies the vernacular architectural trends prevalent during that period as well as the values and persona of a wealthy German immigrant who had attained a prominent position in that economy. The dwelling architecture exemplifies the rural interpretation of Georgian design themes of symmetry and robustness as noted in the even horizontal coursing of the limestone, the jack arches and general sense of formality. The blending of Federal features into this essentially Georgian design and the use of natural limestone completes the portrait that marks this building as unique to north central Maryland, south central Pennsylvania and the northern valley of Virginia.

While other examples of similar dwellings exist in Washington County, none is located within the city limits of Hagerstown. Its pristine, albeit deteriorated, condition renders it one of a shrinking number of dated 18th century structures still standing in the county. The overall design, building material, placement on the property and detailing convey a sense of late 18th century agrarian prosperity in rural western Maryland.

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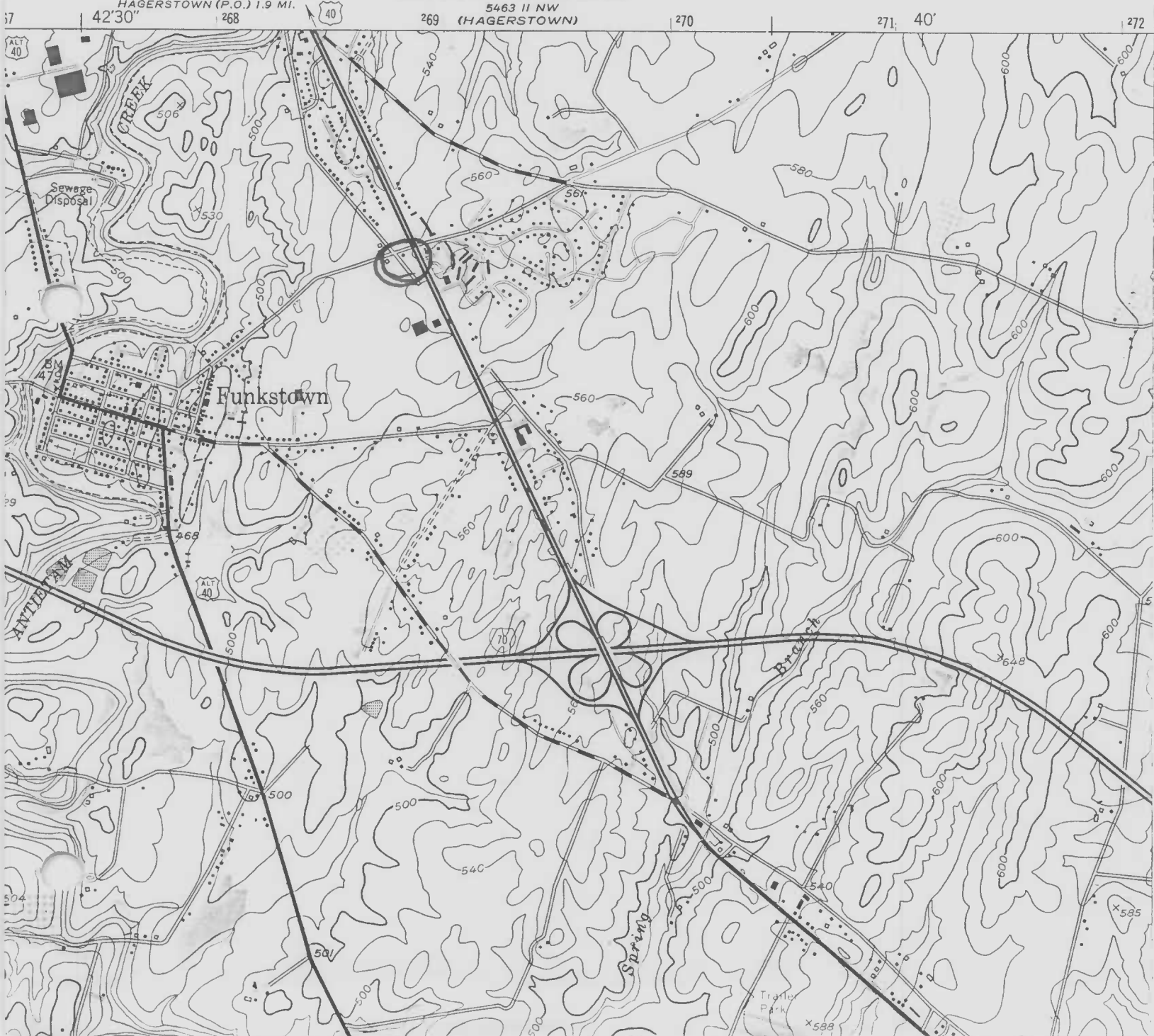
Funkstown Road

Fox-Deceived Farm  
Old Stonebraker Farm

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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(HAGERSTOWN)

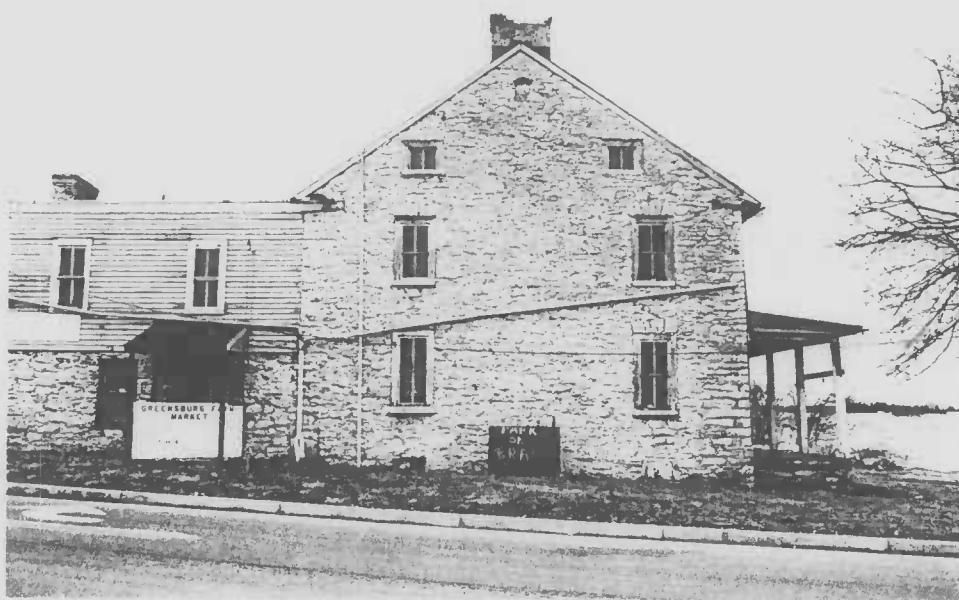




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